

U.W. Clemon judged the same Equal Protection Clause, and its descendant, Title VII, with a vision. It seems to go something like this: discrimination still has deep roots in our culture; a reading of the law that is too parsimonious, or too cramped, will yield one kind of community, while a more heroic interpretation will generate a public sphere that shines more brightly. Finally, I think Judge Clemon always felt that corporate power should feel a little unsettled when it walks into a courtroom. It's an instinct that I appreciate the more I see the customary advantages that the entrenched and the privileged enjoy in most seats of power.

I congratulate Judge Clemon on a noble, heroic career.

MS. ROSA E. LUJAN—TEXAS  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 1992

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, the El Paso, Texas community is proud to have some of the best teachers in the country. Today, I would like to acknowledge one of those, Ms. Rosa E. Lujan, a teacher at Ysleta Elementary School in the Ysleta Independent School District, for being selected as the 1992 Texas Teacher of the Year. Ms. Lujan received the highest honor that the State of Texas can award to a teacher because of her commitment to the children of El Paso. The Texas Education Agency annually recognizes and rewards teachers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and excelled in the classroom. Ms. Rosa E. Lujan represents the best of the teaching profession, and on behalf of the El Paso, Texas community, I applaud her dedication to our schools.

Ms. Rosa E. Lujan's love of teaching was ignited in her teens as a student at Ysleta High School. During the summer, she worked as an aide for South Loop and Ysleta Elementary School. Later on, at the University of Texas at El Paso, she started working for the Ysleta Independent School District as a fourth grade teacher. She has been noted to say: "Being a teacher has allowed me to change children's lives. Hopefully, I have inspired children to believe in themselves, just as my teachers inspired me." After 35 years in education, her passion for students and learning is still burning.

Ms. Rosa E. Lujan is part of a larger history of educational excellence in El Paso. I am proud to note that to date, El Paso area educators have been chosen as Texas Teachers of the Year nine times. The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching.

I am proud of the work of our teachers, and I am committed to ensuring that education remains a top priority in this Congress.

THANKING ROB VON GOGH FOR  
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Rob von Gogh who today marks the end of his twenty-two years of service as an employee of the United States Government, including ten years of distinguished service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Rob began serving the House of Representatives in 1998 as the Branch Manager and Graphic Artist within House Information Resources (HIR), preparing visual communications for Members of Congress. In 1999 he was promoted to HIR's Director of Client Services, where he managed the COA's centralized, non-partisan technology support team that provides infrastructure support for the entire House of Representatives and the more than 950 district offices across the country.

Rob was selected as the recipient of the 2006 Chief Administrative Officer's Excellence Award for his role managing the Client Services team. Rob has guided the House's technological infrastructure through periods of significant transition and strain. Within his role as manager of the Client Services team Rob has been involved in many milestones and business changing events of the House. They include the House's Y2K transition, the anthrax crisis and September 11th attacks, the House Mobile Computing Project, House Active Directory Project, CAO Seat Management for computers and the House Information Hosting Service.

Rob has served in a nonpartisan role as one of the senior problem solvers for House operations. Blending an artful balance of technical knowledge with compassion and a keen focus on delivering results, he instilled a sense of quality customer service with his teammates that earned him the reputation as a person who gets things done fast, right and always with a smile. Mr. von Gogh served the House and our country with distinction. On behalf of the entire House community, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Rob for his service and years of dedication to the United States House of Representatives.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, due to other congressional business in my district, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Thursday, March 26, 2009.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, and 162.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "JOHN  
HOPE FRANKLIN TULSA-GREEN-  
WOOD RACE RIOT CLAIMS AC-  
COUNTABILITY ACT OF 2009"

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 2009*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "John Hope Franklin Tulsa-Greenwood Race Riot Claims Accountability Act of 2009," along with Representative NADLER. This legislation will extend the statute of limitations to allow the survivors of the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot of 1921 to seek a determination on the merits of their civil rights and other claims against the perpetrators of the Riot in a court of law.

This legislation is named in honor of the late Dr. John Hope Franklin, the noted historian, who was a first-hand witness to the destructive impact that the riot had on the African-American community of Tulsa. Dr. Franklin made numerous scholarly contributions to the understanding of the long term effects of the riot on the city and worked to keep the issue alive in history and on the minds of policymakers. On April 24, 2007, he served as a witness, testifying in favor of the legislation, and its passage would be a fitting tribute to his memory and to a community which has never received its fair day in court.

The Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was one of the nation's most prosperous African-American communities entering the decade of the Nineteen Twenties. Serving over 8,000 residents, the community boasted two newspapers, over a dozen churches, and hundreds of African-American-owned businesses, with the commercial district known nationally as the "Negro Wall Street." In May 1921, all that came to an end as 42 square blocks of the community were burned to the ground and up to 300 of its residents were killed by a racist mob. In the wake of the violence, the State and local governments quashed claims for redress and effectively erased the incident from official memory.

The 1921 Tulsa Race Riot was one of the most destructive and costly attacks upon an American community in our nation's history. However, no convictions were obtained for the incidents of murder, arson or larceny connected with the riot, and none of the more than 100 contemporaneously filed lawsuits by residents and property owners was successful in recovering damages from insurance companies to assist in the reconstruction of the community.

The case of the Tulsa-Greenwood Riot victims is worthy of congressional attention because substantial evidence suggests that governmental officials deputized and armed the mob and that the National Guard joined in the destruction. The report commissioned by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 1997, and published in 2001, uncovered new information and detailed, for the first time, the extent of the involvement by the State and city government in prosecuting and erasing evidence of the riot. This new evidence was crucial for the formulation of a substantial case, but its timeliness raised issues at law, and resulted in a dismissal on statute of limitation grounds. In dismissing the survivor's claims, however, the Court found that extraordinary circumstances